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NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2006

CORRECTION: A previous version of this release said "Charles Fritz, an Artist with the Corps of Discovery," was written by Steven Ambrose. It was actually edited by Ambrose. Please use this corrected version.

Contact: Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu

BILLINGS ARTIST'S WORKS OF LEWIS AND CLARK ON VIEW AT YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM

"Charles Fritz, an Artist with the Corps of Discovery," a national traveling exhibition coordinated by the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana, includes more than 88 paintings by **Billings** artist Charles Fritz, and will be displayed at the Yellowstone Art Museum through Aug. 20.

To create this unprecedented series, Fritz traveled to many of the actual sites visited by Lewis and Clark, painting studies of the landscapes and important discoveries encountered by the expedition. The idea for the series came to him as he camped by the Missouri River in 1998. He began working on the series that spring, and his collection now consists of more than 100 paintings, all depicting the travels of Lewis and Clark. All of the paintings were created specifically for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial event.

Charles Fritz is a noted painter of landscape and genre scenes of the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states. Born and raised in Mason City, Iowa, he has made Billings his home since 1980. He has won numerous awards for his work, including three Best in Show Awards

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at the C.M. Russell Art Auction in Great Falls, the Lee M. Loeb Memorial Award for Landscape Painting in 1993 and the William Weiss Purchase Award at the Buffalo Bill Art Show in Cody, Wyo., in 1997. His paintings can be found in several museums, including the Denver Art Museum, the MacNider Art Museum in Mason City, Iowa, and the Rahr-West Museum in Manitowoc, Wis.

“An Artist with the Corps of Discovery” has visited six venues in five states. Its last stop after the Yellowstone Art Museum is the MacNider Art Museum in Fritz’s hometown. A full color exhibition catalog, published by The University of Montana Press and Farcountry Press, and edited by Stephen and Stephanie Ambrose with an introduction by UM history Professor Harry Fritz, accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibition will be available for viewing by the general public at the Yellowstone Art Museum on Saturday, June 3, with a formal celebration scheduled for Thursday, June 15. This celebration jointly honors the work of both Charles Fritz and Gregory Wilhemi, whose exhibition, “A Matter of Time,” is on view at the museum June 15–Sept. 3. Festivities on June 15 will begin with the Museum’s Annual Membership Meeting at 4:30 p.m. The museum’s traditional Annual Meeting Fundraising Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., with an opportunity to view the exhibition, meet the artist and hear him speak about his work. The public is welcome. Admission to the exhibition celebration is free to members, \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and \$3 for children ages 5 to 18. Dinner tickets are \$17 per person for members and nonmembers.

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During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial 2006 Signature Event "Clark Days" July 22-25, the museum will host several lectures by Fritz. With the cost of admission, the public is invited to attend these lectures at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 22; 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 23; 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 24; and 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 25. Additionally there will be a raffle of an original oil painting by Fritz titled "River Rochejhone, July 1806" to benefit the Yellowstone Art Museum's educational programs. Tickets are \$20, and the winning ticket will be drawn on July 25.

"Charles Fritz, an Artist with the Corps of Discovery" at the Yellowstone Art Museum is generously sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, Holiday Stationstores, Gareld F. and Barbara Krieg, David and Sandy Solberg, and ConocoPhilips.

For more information about the artist's work, visit his Web site at <http://www.charlesfritz.com>.

To find out more about the Montana Museum of Art & Culture call 406-243-2019, visit the Web site at museum@umontana.edu or e-mail ww.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

For more information about the Yellowstone Art Museum, call 406-256-6804, visit the Web site at yellowstone.artmuseum.org or e-mail artinfo@artmuseum.org.

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